

My name is Paul D. Basye Jr. I am 45 years old and have been an instrument mechanic at the Portsmouth Ohio Gaseous Diffusion Plant for almost 22 years.

In 1980 and 1981, I along with many other instrument mechanics, drilled holes in the cell housing walls or transit for buffer air lines. This transit is asbestos. In the early years, we used no special techniques in the drilling of these holes. Later we started using water from a squirt bottle to wet the dust so we would not get it all over us. Only after I chose to move to another job, on plant-site, did I receive the training that told me that the water alone did almost no good without using a surfactant (soap) as an additive. An illness from my exposure to the asbestos is almost certain, but I am too young to be tested for **ASBESTOSIS**. They say there is a latency period is up to thirty - three years.

In the early 1980s, I bid into the maintenance shop area of the instrument department thinking my exposures would be less. But there I did have to work in the decontamination facility, where we did the tear - down of up 30" process control valves. We would burn and cut out the vanes of these control valves. The lower bearings on these valves vanes were sometimes packed with "green salt". Some of that green salt could have contained transuranics. They were found in this facility later when better monitors were used.

In the 1990's we found out, there was arsenic in the instrument lines. We were never routinely monitored for arsenic exposure prior to those years. It was rumored that the companies put the arsenic in the system on purpose. The arsenic then accumulated in the instrument lines. These were the same instrument lines that we worked on, on a daily basis. They would only check the lines for radioactive contamination but not for chemical contamination when we asked for a survey.

In the mid to late 1990's, I filed a number of safety complaints in order to prevent the company from raising the contamination alarm limits on some of the Radiation Monitoring Equipment. There was a constant effort on the company's part to raise them, which could have allowed radioactive contamination to be tracked outside of the controlled areas. Their excuse was that even though possible, it was not very much. We told the company that this type of thinking was why so much contamination was spread across the plant and why we have so many contamination areas today. Manipulating the set points of the monitoring equipment creates a sense of doubt in the our Monitoring Programs. NOW we are going to use the data from these programs to determine the work related illnesses for claims purposes.

This law was put into place by Congress and the President to help the "Cold War Veterans" that gave up their health in the name of National Security. NOW the DOE is putting obstacles in our road in stead of helping us with our claims.

WE WILL FIGHT THESE PROPOSALS, I CAN ASSURE YOU!!